

MOUNTAIN COUNTIES WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION

EL DORADO COUNTY
GRIZZLY FLATS COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**PRELIMINARY****DESCRIPTION**

The Grizzly Flats Community Services District (GFCSD) service area is in the south-central part of El Dorado County on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada foothills, approximately 52 miles east of Sacramento, California. The service area is located adjacent to the eastern boundary of the El Dorado Irrigation District's sphere of influence, between the North Fork Cosumnes River and the Steely Fork Cosumnes River. The service area ranges in elevation from approximately 3,600 to 4,200 feet mean sea level, and encompasses approximately 1,115 acres with water service to approximately 459 customers. The GFCSD sphere of influence is approximately 9,200 acres. GFCSD furnishes treated water for residential use to customers within the Grizzly Park subdivisions, as well as to a few large perimeter parcels.

EXISTING WATER SUPPLY

The present source of water for GFCSD is surface water from Big Canyon and North Canyon, which are tributaries in the North Fork Cosumnes River watershed. Water is diverted from the tributaries into the Eagle Ditch pipeline and conveyed to a raw storage reservoir adjacent to the water treatment plant. The reservoir has a storage capacity of approximately 22.80 acre-feet and usable pool of 16.66 acre-feet. The current safe yield from the existing system is 143.5 acre-feet per year.

WATER DEMAND

In 1997, GFCSD's water demand was approximately 148 acre-feet. Future increases are expected in the urban (treated) water demand as a result of residential growth and a shift from part-time to full-time occupancy.

SUPPLEMENTAL WATER SUPPLIES

The supplemental water to meet increasing water demands will be derived from system improvements and a new supplemental storage facility. System improvements would include adding a new groundwater well and lining the existing reservoir to reduce leakage. New supplemental storage would be provided by constructing an off-stream reservoir adjacent to the Eagle Ditch pipeline.

PROBLEMS/CONSTRAINTS

The problems or constraints for GFCSD to meet its increased water demands can be categorized as:

1. Environmental -- Environmental constraints are anticipated for implementing a program for a new water supply. GFCSD is currently served by a pre-1914 water right for the direct diversion of available flows from Big Canyon and North Canyon, as well as a permit authorizing GFCSD to divert water to storage. The latter is not to exceed 31 acre-feet per year. Although GFCSD's pre-1914 water rights should be adequate to supply an off-stream reservoir, the district will need to pursue a permit authorizing them to divert to supplemental storage, due to the projected increase in required volume.
2. Legal -- Obtaining a permit authorizing additional storage, or executing agreements with other agencies to provide supplemental water supply, will be time-consuming and difficult to accomplish, even though the water needs are small in relation to the estimated average annual runoff from Big Canyon and North Canyon of 2,070 and 1,365 acre-feet, respectively.
3. Financial -- The opinion of probable construction cost to implement system improvements and construct a supplemental off-stream storage reservoir is approximately \$60,000 and \$4.6 million, respectively.